



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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Ulster County Legislature's Health Committee Chair Urges The Creation Of Blue Ribbon Commission

In light of the recent Berger Commission Report and many discussions with local health care professionals, Legislator Robert Parete, Chairman of the Health Committee, Legislator Peter Kraft, Chairman of the Human Development Committee and Legislators Joseph Stoeckeler and Mary Sheeley, who both serve on the Health Committee, are urging Ulster County Legislature Chairman David B. Donaldson to form a Blue Ribbon Commission to carefully review the Berger Commission recommendations and offer a long term vision for Ulster County. They feel the Berger Report will have a significant effect on the healthcare delivery system State-wide. The need is recognized to address this serious matter in the most effective and proactive way possible. The members of the Blue Ribbon Commission will consist of various healthcare professionals and interested parties.

At the same time, they will urge the Governor and State Legislature to hold public hearings throughout the State before any decisions are final with respect to the Berger Commission Report. With an eye towards instituting a broader plan to fundamentally restructure healthcare in Ulster County and New York State, they acknowledge the intent of the recommendations is to implement an effective and sensible approach on a regional basis.

Fortunately, the Berger Commission spared Ulster County from the list of facilities that were recommended for closure. However, with the unknown consequences of a merger between Benedictine and Kingston Hospitals, the official creation of a special Blue Ribbon Commission will be to fundamentally address the healthcare needs in Ulster County.